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## Tarble Arts Center Newsletter April 1994

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# Tarble Arts Center

Newsletter April 1994



## EXHIBITIONS

### DONNA ZARBIN-BYRNE SOLO EXHIBITION

-- March 25 - April 24, Brainard Gallery

This exhibition presents a selection of sculpture by Donna Zarbin-Byrne. The artist uses both cast bronze and found objects, including lights and motors, to create her work. She frequently creates installations -- environments which integrate mixed media elements with her sculpture, including special lighting and manipulated shadows. Though not an installation piece, Zarbin-Byrne designed the arrangement of the exhibition at the Tarble, and it includes one piece specifically adapted for the Brainard Gallery using shed snakeskins from the EIU Vivarium. About one of Zarbin-Byrne's exhibitions at Franklin Furnace, critic Ann-Sargent Wooster wrote in *High Performance* magazine: "The night after seeing Chicago artist Donna Zarbin-Byrne's multimedia installation, I dreamed I was walking underwater outside of Captain Nemo's submarine in *20,000 Leagues Under the Sea*. Zarbin-Byrne is the gardener of this dreamscape... [her] organic forms are partially derived from the biomorphic abstractions of Juan Miro and Arshile Gorky ... but by rendering these forms sculpturally, she gives these products of the subconscious a dynamic realism."

Zarbin-Byrne, of Evanston, is the Tarble's 1994 Arts-In-Education Artist-In-Residence. She holds an MFA and a BFA from the University of Texas-San Antonio, and has also studied at Parsons School of Design (New York City) and Alfred State School of Ceramics (New York). Her art work has been exhibited at various sites around the United States. Zarbin-Byrne currently operates Great Lakes Art Foundry in Chicago, and is active in the Illinois Arts Council's Arts-In-Education program. The artist will discuss her work on April 13, 7:30pm [see EVENTS].

### 1994 GRADUATE ART EXHIBITION

-- April 2 - May 1, Main Galleries

Eleven students are participating in this year's Graduate Art Exhibition: Clay Alvey (drawing, painting), Lisa Grotefendt (painting), Donna Coleman (painting, ceramics), C. Scott Lindley (balancing wood sculpture, drawing),

Mark Toma (printmaking, carved wood sculpture), Jonathan Joel Ricci (painting, drawing, mixed media), Ann Hughes (drawing, mixed media), Mel Indelicato (cast bronze), Rich Humphrey (metal sculpture, printmaking), Brenda Stultz (weaving, ceramics), and Hong Gao (watercolor painting).

Most of the work is grounded in recognizable imagery, but dealt with in very different ways. Alvey's enigmatic images focus on the human figure. Grotefendt's paintings are large, confrontive portraits. Ricci's work speaks of the irony and emotions of human relationships. The pastels of Hughes manipulate perceptions of reality and narrative. The imagery of Toma's truncated torsos are posed in gestures which suggest protection or resignation. Gao's paintings of portraits and landscapes dissolve into semi-abstract compositions of drips and runs. Indelicato's small cast bronzes are intended to evoke a sense of historical artifact. Stultz's weavings are the most formal of the group, dealing with how color can define form and space, while Lindley's wood pieces explore implied and actual balance and movement. Coleman's paintings borrow from Southwest Native American imagery, and Humphrey's open metal sculpture were inspired by the line found in Japanese calligraphy and other sources.

The *Graduate Art Exhibition*, presented annually, serves as a group thesis exhibition for Master of Art candidates in Studio Art at Eastern. The exhibition showcases the work done over the past nine months by the students through course work and in consultation with their committees.

#### AMISH OF ILLINOIS

-- April 29 - June 5, Brainard Gallery

This documentary photography exhibit was developed by folklorist and photographer Sherry Pardee for the Tarble. The exhibit explores the inner world of Amish life. Based on the scriptural commandment against making graven images, the Amish are opposed to being photographed. And because the Amish value humility and modesty, they view photography as a form of pridefulness and vanity. In respect of their beliefs the exhibit's photographs are only of scenes and objects from the everyday life of the Amish, with no individuals depicted. Accompanying the color photographs are descriptions, Amish sayings, and Bible passages. Amish objects, including a German hymnal, hand-decorated bonnets, forged draft horse horseshoes and leather harness, a bent wood rocking chair, and quilts from the Tarble's folk arts collection are also included.

The Amish came to America in the 1720s seeking religious freedom. Their religious faith and beliefs still shape every aspect of their daily lives. The Amish settlement of Arthur, Illinois, is one of the oldest and most cohesive ethnic folk cultures in the state of Illinois. The community was established in 1865. Today it has a population of over 2,500. As Old Order Amish they strictly adhere to the *Ordnung*, or church rules, by which each Amish

community's economic and social practices are structured. Their society interweaves religion, family, education, occupation, and community life into a well-ordered whole. Their everyday life reflects their religious, German, and rural values. Not conforming to contemporary ways, the Amish reject automobiles, electricity, television, and modern clothing. Outsiders passing through the Amish countryside may notice these differences without understanding their spiritual basis. For the visitor, the pace of life seems slower in the Amish community of Arthur. Most visitors are struck by the peaceful, beautifully ordered landscape of homesteads and farms. One of Illinois' leading tourist attractions, the thousands of people who come to Arthur witness a community going against the grain of modern life.

The production of the *Amish of Illinois* exhibit was made possible through support provided by Tarble Arts Center membership contributions, the Eastern Illinois University Foundation, the Illinois Arts Council, a state agency, the National Endowment for the Arts, the Illinois Humanities Council, the National Endowment for the Humanities, and the Illinois General Assembly. The exhibit was designed to be able to be shown in non-museum settings, such as bank lobbies and public libraries, and is in the midst of touring communities in the eastcentral Illinois region. Contact the Tarble for information about hosting the *Amish of Illinois* exhibit.

## EVENTS

### TARBLE CLOSED: EASTER SUNDAY

-- April 3

### DOCENT MEETING

--April 4, 10am - noon

The meeting will begin with a tour of the 1994 Graduate Art Exhibition, followed by a tour of the Donna Zarbin-Byrne solo exhibition. The meeting is open to the public, and persons interested in becoming a Tarble Arts Center Docent are encouraged to attend.

### LECTURE/RECITAL: SURREALISM IN PIANO MUSIC OF 20TH CENTURY AMERICAN COMPOSERS, DR. KATHRYN FOUSE

-- April 6, 7pm

The synthesis of music, literature, and art is the topic of a lecture/recital by pianist Dr. Kathryn Fouse, entitled *Surrealism in the Piano Music of Representative Twentieth-Century American Composers*. The lecture/recital examines the Surrealist movement and its influence on American composers. Through musical performance and projected slides Fouse will explore the philosophies of the Surrealists and the characteristics found in Surrealist art and literature -- automatism, the juxtaposition of unrelated themes or images, and the creation of dream-like

atmospheres -- and the appearance of these characteristics in the piano music of Charles Ives, Henry Cowell, John Cage, and George Crumb. Fouse will also present the piano preludes *La Femme 100 Têtes* by George Antheil, which were inspired by the Surrealist collage novel *La Femme 100 Têtes* by Max Ernst.

Fouse is on the College of Music faculty at the University of North Texas. She holds three degrees in Piano Performance: a Bachelor of Music from Baylor University, a Master of Music from Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville, and a Doctor of Musical Arts from the University of North Texas. As a virtuoso pianist, Fouse is the winner of numerous piano competitions, including the St. Louis Artist Presentation Series Competition, and has performed throughout the United States and in Europe. She also serves as an accompanist, and recently accompanied noted Russian trumpet virtuoso Timofey Dokschidnzer in Gothenberg, Sweden. This program is co-sponsored by the EIU Music Department.

#### RECEPTION: GRADUATE ART EXHIBITION

-- April 10, 2-4pm

Celebrate the 1994 Graduate Art Exhibition with the artists.

#### ARTIST'S LECTURE: DONNA ZARBIN-BYRNE

-- April 13, 7:30pm

Sculptor/installation artist Donna Zarbin-Byrne will present a slide lecture on her work in conjunction with her solo exhibition and residency as the Tarble's 1994 Arts-In-Education Artist-In-Residence.

#### POETRY READING: X.J. KENNEDY

-- April 14, time to be announced

Nationally known author X.J. Kennedy will present a reading of his own works. In addition to writing poetry, Kennedy has organized texts on poetry used on college campuses throughout the country, and is the author of children's books. Before devoting his full time to writing and editing Kennedy was on the faculty at Tufts University. This reading is sponsored by the EIU English Department.

#### REGISTRATION STILL BEING TAKEN FOR APRIL WORKSHOPS

--Deadlines are April 15 & 22

Seats are still open in two April workshops at the Tarble. *Matting and Framing*, open to persons aged 16 and up, will meet on Saturday, April 16, from 3 - 5pm. Participants are asked to bring a favorite artwork and matboard. *Tie-Dye T's*, for youths aged 12 to 18, meets on Saturday, April 23, from 3 - 5pm. Students should bring three pre-washed t-shirts. Tarble members' workshop fees are \$10.00 for *Matting and Framing* and \$20.00 for *Tie-Dye T's*; call 581-ARTS (2787) to register. Both workshops will be presented by Dorothy Bennett, Art Teacher at Crestwood School in Paris,

Visual Arts Coordinator for the Coles County Arts Council, and recipient of EIU's Art Teacher of the Year award.

#### POETRY/FICTION READING: THE CHARLESTON WRITERS' GROUP

-- April 20, 7pm

Members of the Charleston Writers' Group, composed of members of the community and the EIU faculty, will read selections from their own works.

#### ILLINOIS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL ASSOCIATION JUNIOR HIGH ART WORKSHOP

-- April 29, 11am

EIU Art Education faculty member Dr. Nanette Carli is coordinating this art workshop for junior high students sponsored by the EIU Art Department.

#### CELEBRATION: A FESTIVAL OF THE ARTS

-- April 29 - May 2

The Tarble is once again co-sponsoring the Folk Arts activities for CELEBRATION. This year the major focus is on *Celebrate Quilts!*, an open invitational quilt show to be held in the Grand Ballroom of the MLK University Union, co-sponsored by Quiltworks and the Coles County Arts Council. Approximately 100 quilts are anticipated, ranging from antique to contemporary. A variety of activities are scheduled in conjunction with the quilt show: nationally recognized quilt artist Suzanne Marshall of Clayton, Missouri, will present a lecture entitled *The Evolution of a Quiltmaker* at 1:30pm on April 30; featured quilter Phyllis Norton will be doing applique; Charleston Senior Quilters will be quilting; and, members of Quiltworks will present demonstrations, including *Ink Drawing* by Carol Rennels, *Quick Piecing* by Kathryn Stewart, and *Pineapple Block* by Charolette Miller. Admission will be \$2.00 to the show and \$3.00 to Marshall's lecture, with tickets for the lecture available at the Tarble Gift Shop.

Also presented for CELEBRATION '94 will be sheep shearing (1pm on April 30) with a "Fleece-To-Shawl" spinning and weaving demonstration by members of the Countryside Spinners and Weavers Guild, glassblowing by William Boysen of Southern Illinois University-Carbondale's School of Art & Design, and many, many other activities. For a complete listing of activities as soon as it is published contact: CELEBRATION, Office of Promotion & Development, College of Arts & Humanities, Eastern Illinois University, 600 Lincoln Avenue, Charleston, IL 61920-3099; telephone 217/581-2113.

## NEW AND RENEWED MEMBERS

-- February 15 - March 15

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## **FROM THE CURATOR**

For four weeks beginning on April 12th, the Tarble Arts Center is hosting an artist-in-residence. This year's artist is Evanston sculptor Donna Zarbin-Byrne. Zarbin-Byrne holds a Master of Fine Arts degree from the University of Texas at San Antonio, and has been involved in residency programs in both Pennsylvania and Illinois. Currently, she is listed on the Illinois Arts Council's Arts-in-Education Artists' Roster. The Tarble is pleased to bring her here to share her knowledge and expertise with both area schools and the community. During her residency, Zarbin-Byrne will spend one week in each of four area schools, including Charleston Junior High School, Mattoon Junior High School, Central A&M High School, Moweaqua, and Crestwood School, Paris. Through this program, Zarbin-Byrne will introduce students to plaster casting using various found objects.

Concurrent with the in-school residencies, Zarbin-Byrne will conduct a Tuesday evening course on bronze casting. Advertised in several area newspapers, the class currently consists of students from Charleston, Mattoon, Decatur, and Toledo. In four weekly meetings, participants will learn the process of lost wax casting in bronze, and will have the opportunity to create a small bronze object of their own. The artist's husband, Richard Byrne, will be present during one class to offer his ideas on chasing the surface and applying patinas to finish the small bronzes.

Additional residency activities include an exhibition of Zarbin-Byrne's work in Tarble's Brainard Gallery and a gallery talk by Zarbin-Byrne on April 13th (see EXHIBITIONS and EVENTS). The 1994 Arts-In-Education Residency is made possible through a grant from the Illinois Arts Council, a state agency, and co-sponsorship by the Coles County Arts Council, Mattoon Junior High School, Central A&M High School, Moweaqua, and Crestwood

## FROM THE DIRECTOR

The Tarble Arts Center has been fortunate to have Amelia Heap as a student intern this semester. Amelia, who plans a career in arts administration, has been assisting with many activities. She has largely taken over the administrative duties in coordinating the on-going *Amish of Illinois* circulating exhibit tour, has assisted with promotional activities such as press releases and advertising, as well as assisted with many of the mundane but essential tasks that all programs require. Not content to stay in the office, Amelia has also assisted with the installation and dismantling of exhibitions, setting up for programs and workshops, and even assisting with crowd control during a few school tours. She is soon to become inundated with CELEBRATION. Through all of her activities here Amelia has been positive, energetic, directed, and capable. She has been an asset to the Tarble Arts Center and I wish her every success in pursuing a master's degree and a career in arts administration.

As the academic year winds down and plans are made for the coming year, I invite members of civic groups, clubs, and similar organizations to consider utilizing the Tarble Arts Center as the topic of an upcoming program. I encourage groups to meet at the Tarble, with a brief tour of the current exhibitions serving as the meeting's program. And the Tarble staff is also available to speak at meetings held elsewhere. Groups that have utilized the Tarble as the focus of a meeting or co-sponsored event have included the Charleston Junior Women's Club, the Charleston Women's Club, the Mattoon Women's Club, the Charleston Chamber of Commerce, Rotary, Newcomers, EIU Annuitants, Cub Scouts, Girl Scouts, Quiltworks, Countryside Spinners and Weavers Guild, Mattoon Watercolor Group, and others. Please contact me or the Tarble office for more specific information.

-- Michael Watts

Staff:	Michael Watts, Director	Kit Morice, Acting Curator of Education
	David Pooley, Registrar	Fran Wittenberg, Secretary

James K. Johnson, Acting Dean, College of Arts and Humanities

### Volunteer Coordinators:

Maggie Hollowell & Corrine Joyner, Docent Education Program  
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Open Hours: Tuesday - Friday 10am - 5pm, Saturday 10am - 4pm, Sunday 1- 4pm; Closed Mondays and holidays. Admission is free unless otherwise noted. For information or to schedule a group tour, telephone 217/581-ARTS(2787). The Table Arts Center is located on South Ninth Street at Cleveland Avenue, on the Eastern Illinois University campus. The Table Arts Center is partially supported by the Illinois Arts Council, a state agency, and by Table Arts Center membership contributions.

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